newspaper report on this issue in Rashtriya Sahara on 14.6.2002 which was investigated by the Zonal Railway and no irregularity was substantiated.

Encroachment of Railway Lands

1884. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Railway Operations derailed" appearing in the Hindu dated 13th June, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems of large scale encroachment of Railway lands and tracks highlighted in the news-item which have rendered Railway's expansion programme completely infructuous?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Railways have, from time to time, taken steps to remove the encroachers. Eviction process has been initiated. The Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi have adopted a policy of rehabilitation of such encroachers at the Government cost. For the NCT of Delhi, this position was accepted by Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation. At their instance, Railways have also accepted the policy of the Government of NCT Delhi for that encorached land which is needed immediately for execution of sanctioned projects, which implies sharing some cost of rehabilitation of encorachers. Thus, now the removal of encorachers (which requires presence of Magistrate, Police, etc.), can be done a by a slow process prioritising for land required for execution of projects.

Super Fast Train between Bhubaneswar and Kanyakumari

1885. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government has made a request for introduction of a super-fast train between Bhubaneswar and Kanyakumari *via* Chennai;

(b) whether the request was made to meet the long pending demand of the State for carriage of pilgrims and tourists from Orissa to various places in the South; and

(c) whether Government are considering the request favourable; if so, by when the above trian is likely to be introduced to meet the popular demand of the people of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir.

(c) 6355/6356 Howrah-Kanyakumari Express (Weekly) is available for Bhubaneswar-Kanyakumari passengers. Introduction of train between Bhubaneswar and Kanyakumari has been examined but not found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Problem of Train Passengers

†1886. SHRI RAMA SHAKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to completely check the misbehaviour of porters with passengers at railway stations, the entry of unauthorized passengers in reserved compartments and disturbance being created since long by the beggars and illegal vendors in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when, the plan in this regard would be executed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the manner in which Government would make the travel of passengers secured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Notice boards indicating the approved charges of porters are displayed at conspicuous places so as to eliminate misbehaviour of porters with passengers with respect to charges. Regular and surprise checks are conducted against cornering of seats by coolies, entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches and unauthorised vendors, beggars both in trains and at stations. Persons detected travelling unauthorisedly are dealt with as per the relevant provisions of law. Apart from manning of reserved coaches by the ticket

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.